

## DISTRICT COURT (THIRD DISTRICT : SALT LAKE COUNTY) [1688]

### CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASE MINUTE BOOKS, 1896-1967

89 reels of microfilm

**DESCRIPTION:** In 1896, the new state constitution provided for a court system to include a supreme court, district courts, and justices courts. The third district was assigned three justices. The county clerk kept the minute books for the district court in each county. This series reflects the minutes of the court in and for Salt Lake County. While Tooele, Summit, and Dagget counties were part of the third district at various times during this period, minutes for those counties are not included in this series.

The minutes contain information on civil and criminal cases and their related legal and procedural issues. Except in the case of contested estates or issues such as life estates and joint tenancy where it became a civil case, probate minutes were kept separately. Juvenile cases were separated after the creation of a juvenile court in 1901. Initial procedural rules for the operation of the third district court are explained in Book 2, pp. 123-128; amendments were made later as needed. Civil and criminal cases were distributed among all the district judges for the county. As case loads increased, additional judges were added to the district, and judges from other districts could be asked to hear cases in the third district if needed. Separate minutes are kept for each judge starting about 1900.

The minute books document the daily proceedings of the third district court in Salt Lake County, but they are not transcripts of court cases. Business matters include identifying the court site and officers present, selecting or dismissing jurors, and scheduling and assigning cases. These are followed by a summary of proceedings for each case heard that day. By the end of the 1960s, keeping up the minute books became infeasible, and minute entries were made part of the individual case files.

A typical case will span multiple dates. Further, a single case might have transactions recorded under more than one judge. For example, the preliminary motions might be under one judge, with the trial assigned to another; reassignment of cases also occurred on occasion. Numerous entries may be found concerning various motions without alluding to the original charge. In particular, with civil cases, the original complaint is not always specified. The details were recorded in information or indictment record rather than in the minutes. Only volume 41 has those records bound with the minutes.

A case will include an indictment for a charge or indication of a complaint filed; demurrers, in which a defendant does not deny the charge but maintains it is not significant enough to justify legal action; dismissals; continuances; court orders or other motions; a statement that the case was presented, including names of those testifying, but rarely alluding to the nature of the testimony; the findings; and precise sentencing or settlement. The most information presented occurs in various forms of property disputes (eg. receivership, foreclosure, mining claims, estate settlement, water rights) where settlement details the property and its sale or distribution. More information than usual is also present in cases where the jury was asked to assign percentage of contributory negligence or resolve multiple questions in its findings.

Cases include those for murder (among them the initial trial of Joseph Hillstrom, also known as Joe Hill, found in vol. 26), larceny, robbery, burglary, assault, rape, riot, polygamy, gambling, narcotics, sodomy, child abuse, prostitution, etc. Applications for liquor licenses proliferate in the teens followed by prosecutions for liquor law violations in the 1920s after the enactment of Prohibition. Traffic violations of varying severity are common later.

Monetary cases include forgery, embezzlement, and bad check writing. Also included are receivership, garnishment of wages, debt, foreclosure, dissolutions of corporation or their withdrawal from the state, and tax commission liens. Bank and loan company liquidations appear repeatedly in the 1930s. The issues involved in many civil cases are difficult to determine but do include property disputes, wages disputes, and liability claims.

Divorce, alimony, and child support (including bastardy) cases are common throughout. A spurt of requests for issuance of marriage licenses without a blood test follow the 1941 law mandating that procedure. Commitments to state institutions (eg. reform school/industrial school, training school, asylum/mental hospital, tuberculosis sanatorium) are also present throughout.

The district courts had the power to grant citizenship. The process included two witnesses testifying to the applicant's character, renouncing foreign allegiance, and taking an oath of allegiance to the United States constitution. The applicant's name, the names of his witnesses, his native country and current county of residence are noted in the minutes. Applicants almost always are, but at first did not need to be, residents of Salt Lake County.

Most cases are exercises of original jurisdiction but do include appeals from county, justice of the peace courts, and after 1901, municipal courts. Occasionally reciprocal agreements and extradition procedures involving other states appear.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Volumes are arranged in rough chronological order. After 1900, separate volumes are kept for individual judges, so several volumes will have overlapping dates. Until the 1960s, the volumes are in numerical order. After that date, minutes are no longer kept in numbered volumes. The rough chronological order continues, but blocks of entries were sometimes filmed out of order. Entries within the blocks are in chronological order; rarely they are filmed in reverse. Book 32 is missing but creates no apparent gap in the sequence. Consult the attached inventory.

**RELATED RECORDS:** More detailed information for the 3rd District Court may be found in case files, transcripts, commitment records, and information and indictment records. Blotters provide the minutes in an abbreviated fashion. Judgement books and civil case decisions record the outcome of cases. Naturalization books show further documentation of naturalizations. For appeals to the district courts the lower court records should be checked, as should the supreme court for appeals from the district courts. Probate cases are separate series. Consult county clerk records for minutes from other counties in the third district. District Court minutes before 1896 are found in series 1649.

**PROCESSING NOTE:** Reels 1 through 74 were filmed by the Archives in 1982. Reels 75 through 89 were filmed by the Salt Lake County Clerk's office in 1969. Originals were scheduled in 1968 for destruction following microfilming. The series was processed by Alice Cone in 1989.

## CONTAINER LIST

Reel	Volume	Description
1	1	6 Jan 1896-1 Apr 1896
2	1	1 Apr 1896-29 June 1896
2	2	29 June 1896-11 Dec 1896
2	3	11 Dec 1896-2 Jan 1897
3	3	2 Jan 1897-18 May 1897
3	4	19 May 1897-19 Oct 1897
4	4	19 Oct 1897-29 Nov 1897
4	5	29 Nov 1897-18 Nov 1898
4	6	19 Nov 1898-14 Jan 1899
5	6	14 Jan 1899-13 Jan 1900
5	7	16 Jan 1900-6 Oct 1900
6	7	6 Oct 1900-2 March 1901, STEWART
6	8	1 May 1901-31 July 1903, HALL
6	9	1 May 1901-30 Jan 1902, MORSE
7	9	28 Jan 1902-20 July 1903, MORSE
7	10	4 March 1901-30 Jan 1903, STEWART
7	11	15 Aug 1903-16 Oct 1903, MORSE
8	11	14 Oct 1903-27 Jan 1906, MORSE
8	12	6 Aug 1903-14 Sept 1904, HALL

<b>Reel</b>	<b>Volume</b>	<b>Description</b>
9	12	12 Sept 1904-11 Jan 1906, HALL/ARMSTRONG
9	13	1 July 1903-19 Jan 1906, STEWART/RITCHIE
9	14	12 Jan 1906-3 Dec 1906, ARMSTRONG
10	14	12 Jan 1906-7 Oct 1909, ARMSTRONG
10	15	15 Jan 1906-6 Jan 1909, LEWIS
10	16	29 Jan 1906-15 June 1906, MORSE
11	16	14 June 1906-5 Nov 1908, MORSE
11	17	2 May 1903-24 Oct 1905, LEWIS
12	17	23 Oct 1905-13 Jan 1906, LEWIS
12	18	20 Jan 1906-12 Oct 1909, RITCHIE
12	19	6 Nov 1908-5 June 1909, MORSE
13	19	1 June 1909-8 Dec 1910, MORSE
13	20	7 Jan 1909-20 May 1911, LEWIS
14	20	13 May 1911-9 Sept 1911, LEWIS
14	21	9 Dec 1910-19 Mar 1912, MORSE
14	22	9 Oct 1909-17 Jan 1911, ARMSTRONG
15	22	13 Jan 1911-26 Oct 1912, ARMSTRONG
15	23	13 Oct 1909-17 Oct 1912, RITCHIE
16	24	1 Apr 1911-2 Jan 1914, LOOFBOUROW
16	25	20 Mar 1912-13 Oct 1913, MORSE
17	26	15 Jan 1913-2 Apr 1915, RITCHIE
17	27	18 Oct 1913-26 Mar 1915, MORSE
18	28	28 Oct 1912-22 Nov 1915, ARMSTRONG
18	29	9 Sept 1911-9 Sept 1912, LEWIS
19	29	9 Sept 1912-21 Oct 1915, LEWIS
19	30	2 Apr 1915-29 May 1916, RITCHIE
20	30	29 May 1916-31 July 1916, RITCHIE
20	31	3 Jan 1913-30 Dec 1916, LOOFBOUROW
20	32	MISSING AT TIME OF FILMING
20	33	26 Mar 1915-1 Dec 1915, MORSE
21	33	30 Nov 1915-30 Aug 1917, MORSE/BROWN
21	34	22 Nov 1915-9 Feb 1918, ARMSTRONG/EVANS
22	35	31 July 1916-17 June 1918, RITCHIE/BRAMEL
22	36	21 Oct 1915-30 June 1917, LEWIS/GOODWIN
23	36	30 June 1917-31 Dec 1918, GOODWIN/PORTER/TOBIN
23	37	9 Feb 1918-31 Dec 1919, EVANS
24	38	2 Jan 1917-31 Dec 1920, STEPHENS
24	39	1 Sept 1917-24 Oct 1918, BROWN
25	39	23 Oct 1918-31 Dec 1920, BROWN
25	40	18 June 1918-31 Dec 1920, BRAMEL
26	41	2 Jan 1919-29 Dec 1920, TOBIN
26	41	Indictment Record 1/6/17-12/27/20
26	42	2 Jan 1920-11 July 1921, EVANS
26	42	6 June 1919-5 Sept 1919, McCARTHY
27	42	5 Sept 1919-21 Dec 1920, McCARTHY/STRINGFELLOW
27	43	22 Dec 1920-8 Oct 1924,

<b>Reel</b>	<b>Volume</b>	<b>Description</b>
		STRINGFELLOW/IVERSON
28	43	6 Oct 1924-3 Jan 1925, IVERSON
28	44	30 Dec 1920-6 July 1924, TOBIN/BARNES
28	45	3 Jan 1921-25 Mar 1922, WIGHT
29	45	25 Mar 1922-31 Dec 1924, WIGHT
29	46	31 Dec 1920-27 May 1922, RITCHIE
30	46	26 May 1922-31 Aug 1923, RITCHIE
30	47	4 Jan 1921-10 Nov 1923, HANSON
31	47	10 Nov 1923-2 Jan 1924, HANSON
31	48	6 Jan 1921-30 Dec 1924, McCREA
31	49	1 Sept 1923-25 Apr 1925, RITCHIE
32	49	25 Apr 1925-3 Jan 1927, RITCHIE
32	50	2 Jan 1924-30 Sept 1926, HANSON
33	51	8 July 1924-3 Jan 1927, MATHISON
33	52	2 Jan 1925-1 Dec 1926, WIGHT
34	52	26 Nov 1926-5 Feb 1929, WIGHT
34	53	3 Jan 1925-3 Apr 1928, McCREA
35	53	3 Apr 1928-5 Jan 1929, McCREA
35	54	5 Jan 1925-7 Jan 1929, MARKS
36	55	2 Oct 1926-5 Jan 1929, HANSON
36	56	3 Jan 1927-4 June 1928, RITCHIE
37	56	2 June 1928-4 Jan 1929, RITCHIE
37	57	4 Jan 1927-5 Jan 1929, MATHISON
37	58	7 Jan 1929-3 Sept 1929, MOFFAT
38	58	3 Sept 1929-10 Sept 1930, MOFFAT
38	59	7 Jan 1929-7 Feb 1930, McCONKIE
39	59	7 Feb 1930-22 Sept 1931, McCONKIE
39	60	7 Jan 1929-18 June 1931, McDONOUGH
40	60	18 June 1931-12 Nov. 1931, McDONOUGH
40	61	7 Jan 1929-16 Feb 1932, BRAMEL
40	62	7 Jan 1929-6 Nov 1930, WOLFE
41	62	5 Nov 1930-17 June 1932, WOLFE
41	63	7 Jan 1929-30 June 1932, McKINNEY
42	63	29 June 1932-31 Dec 1932, McKINNEY
42	64	10 Sept 1930-21 Spr 1932, MOFFAT
42	65	24 Sept 1931-9 June 1933, McCONKIE
43	65	8 June 1933-5 Jan 1934, McCONKIE
43	66	13 Nov 1931-10 Sept 1934, McDONOUGH
44	66	10 Sept 1934-29 Dec 1934, McDONOUGH
44	67	22 Sept 1932-31 Dec 1932, MOFFAT
44	67	17 Feb 1932-30 Nov 1932, BRAMEL
44	68	18 June 1932-29 Dec 1934, WOLFE
45	69	3 Jan 1933-29 Dec 1934, THURMAN
45	70	3 Jan 1933-15 Oct 1934, SCHILLER
46	70	13 Oct 1934-7 Jan 1935, SCHILLER
46	71	3 Jan 1933-5 Jan 1935, McKINNEY
46	72	7 Jan 1935-28 Apr 1937, SCHILLER
47	72	27 Apr 1937-29 Dec 1937, SCHILLER

<b>Reel</b>	<b>Volume</b>	<b>Description</b>
47	73	7 Jan 1935-31 Dec 1937, EVANS
48	74	2 Jan 1935-27 Dec 1938, THURMAN
48	75	3 Jan 1935-25 Mar 1936, McDONOUGH
49	75	25 Mar 1936-3 Jan 1939, McDONOUGH
49	76	7 Jan 1935-22 Apr 1937, McKINNEY
50	76	21 Apr 1937-8 June 1938, McKINNEY
50	76	24 Oct 1938-4 Jan 1941, BAKER
50	77	7 Jan 1935-24 May 1937, McCONKIE
51	77	24 May 1937-14 Dec 1938, McCONKIE
51	78	29 Dec 1938-14 Nov 1940, McCONKIE
51	78	26 Nov 1940-30 Dec 1942, LEVERICH
52	79	3 Jan 1938-6 Jan 1941, SCHILLER
52	80	31 Dec 1937-16 Nov 1938, EVANS
53	80	16 Nov 1938-4 Jan 1941, EVANS
53	81	3 Jan 1939-13 May 1940, THURMAN
54	81	13 May 1940-4 Jan 1941, THURMAN
54	82	3 Jan 1939-6 Mar 1944, BRONSON
55	82	3 Mar 1944-13 Apr 1946, BRONSON
55	83	6 Jan 1941-1 Nov 1944, BAKER
56	83	1 Nov 1944-20 Oct 1945, BAKER
56	84	6 Jan 1941-19 Feb 1945, ELLETT
57	84	19 Feb 1945-29 Dec 1945, ELLETT
57	85	7 Jan 1941-11 Oct 1945, CROCKETT
58	85	11 Oct 1945-8 July 1946, CROCKETT
58	86	6 Jan 1941-10 Dec 1941, EVANS
58	86	5 Jan 1942-7 Jan 1944, FAUST
58	86	4 Jan 1943-31 Dec 1943, LEVERICH
58	86	1 May 1944-24 Aug 1944, HENDERSON
59	86	24 Aug 1944-14 Aug 1946, HENDERSON
59	87	3 Jan 1944-22 Dec 1947, VAN COTT
60	87	20 Dec 1947-19 June 1948, VAN COTT
60	88	23 Oct 1945-10 Jan 1949, BAKER
60	89	29 Dec 1945-8 Sept 1947, ELLETT
61	89	8 Sept 1947-30 Dec 1949, ELLETT
61	90	17 Apr 1946-13 Sept 1948, JEPPSON
62	90	13 Sept 1948-16 July 1949, JEPPSON
62	91	8 July 1946-15 Nov 1950, CROCKETT
63	91	15 Nov 1950-30 Dec 1950, CROCKETT
63	92A	16 Aug 1946-9 June 1948, HOGENSON
63	93	19 June 1948-30 Oct 1950, VAN COTT
64	92B	9 June 1948-31 Mar 1950, HOGENSON
65	93	30 Oct 1950-31 Dec 1953, VAN COTT
65	94	11 Jan 1949-14 Feb 1951, BAKER
66	94	14 Feb 1951-27 Dec 1954, BAKER
66	95	16 July 1949-2 Nov 1950, JEPPSON
67	95	30 Oct 1950-23 Dec 1953, JEPPSON
67	96	30 Dec 1949-20 Aug 1951, ELLETT
68	96	20 Aug 1951-31 Dec 1954, ELLETT

<b>Reel</b>	<b>Volume</b>	<b>Description</b>
68	97	29 Nov 1950-30 Mar 1953, LARSON
69	97	30 Mar 1953-6 Jan 1955, LARSON
69	98	3 Apr 1950-23 Jan 1954, LEWIS
70	98	23 Jan 1954-5 Jan 1955, LEWIS
70	99	24 Dec 1953-27 Jan 1957, JEPPSON
70	100	2 Jan 1954-10 Mar 1954, VAN COTT
71	100	10 Mar 1954-23 Dec 1957, VAN COTT
72	101	9 June 1954-31 Dec 1957, ELLETT
72	102	6 Jan 1955-29 Mar 1956, LEWIS
73	102	22 Mar 1956-12 June 1956, LEWIS
73	102	4 Jan 1955-30 Mar 1957 ?, BAKER
73	103	6 Jan 1955-23 May 1958, LARSON
74	103	22 May 1958-29 Dec 1958, LARSON
74	104	18 July 1956-2 Jan 1959, HANSON
75	104	27 Aug 1965-30 Dec 1966, HANSON
75	NONE	5 Jan 1959-7 June 1960, LARSON
76	NONE	2 Jan 1964-26 Aug 1965, HANSON
77	NONE	28 June 1966-30 Dec 1966, CROFT
77	NONE	28 Oct 1965-29 Dec 1965
78	NONE	3 Jan 1966-27 June 1966, CROFT
79	NONE	4 Oct 1963-20 Dec 1963, JEPPSON
80	NONE	3 Jan 1966-23 Dec 1966, JEPPSON
80	NONE	5 Jan 1965-27 Dec 1965
80	NONE	13 Jan 1964-17 Dec 1964
80	NONE	7 Jan 1963-7 Oct 1963
81	NONE	3 Jan 1964-2 Aug 1965, ANDERSON
82	NONE	30 July 1965-29 Dec 1966, ANDERSON
83	NONE	1 Oct 1964-30 Dec 1964, SNOW
84	NONE	27 Sept 1965-31 Dec 1965, SNOW
84	NONE	3 Jan 1964-29 Sept 1964
85	NONE	20 Jan 1965-24 Sept 1965, SNOW
86	NONE	1 Apr 1966-29 Dec 1966, SNOW
86	NONE	4 Jan 1965-19 Jan 1965
87	NONE	3 Jan 1967-6 Jan 1967, ELLETT
87	NONE	3 Jan 1966-30 Dec 1966
87	NONE	4 Jan 1965-28 Dec 1965
87	NONE	2 Jan 1964-31 Dec 1964
87	NONE	31 Dec 1963-23 Oct 1963 (filmed in reverse)
88	NONE	4 Jan 1965-27 July 1965, VAN COTT
88	NONE	2 Jan 1964-31 Dec 1964
89	NONE	3 Jan 1966-28 Dec 1966, FAUX
89	NONE	4 Jan 1965-23 Dec 1965
89	NONE	6 Jan 1964-31 Dec 1964
89	NONE	24 Dec 1963-2 Jan 1963 (filmed in reverse)